

Blue Cross Blue Shield: Non-FDA Approved Topical Patch Disruption - Effective July 1

Prime Therapeutics Audit team has identified prescription drug claims for several topical patches that were outliers in cost and utilization. These products are used primarily for pain relief. Further research has shown the following:

- Cost and utilization has been rapidly increasing since April 2014
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved these products, and therefore has not verified that they are safe and effective

Due to the findings above, the decision was made to take rapid action to no longer cover the identified topical patches starting on July 1, 2015. Members will be encouraged to reach out to their prescribing physicians for alternative treatment options. Letters are expected to be mailed to disrupted members and prescribing physicians the week of June 8.